

All solid and liquid wastes and contaminated stormwater in King County must be disposed of properly. There are generally five options for disposal depending on the types and quantity of materials. These options are: (1) sanitary sewer system, (2) septic system, (3) municipal solid waste disposal facilities, (4) recycling, and (5) offsite waste transportation and disposal services. Ordinary stormwater runoff is not considered to be contaminated but stormwater that is mixed with concentrated wastes requires special disposal, as discussed below.

Discharge to Sanitary Sewer System

Wastewater generated by commercial and industrial processes (depending on the nature of the wastewater) may be put into the sanitary sewer, subject to approval by the local sewer authority and the King County Industrial Waste Program. It may be necessary to pretreat the wastewater in order to remove pollutants. Sewer fees may be collected on such discharges. The local sewer authority and King County must be contacted prior to the installation of any permanent connection to the sanitary sewer.

Process wastewater may be recycled on-site as an alternative to discharge to the sanitary sewer. There are numerous products on the market that are designed to recycle wash water.

It is not an option to discharge stormwater to the sanitary sewer in place of implementing adequate best management practices to prevent contamination.

Local Sewer Agency

Contact your local sewer agency for information on allowable discharges and the location of your side sewer. The name of your local sewer agency is identified on your water and sewer bill.

King County Wastewater Division – Industrial Waste Program

The Industrial Waste Program provides information on what can be discharged to the sanitary sewer. Industrial Waste can also assist with information regarding the rerouting of illicit storm water connections/discharges.

(206) 263-3000

www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/IndustrialWaste

Discharge to Septic System

If your site is not serviced by a sanitary sewer system, you probably have a septic system. Only waste that is comparable to residential sewage may be disposed of into septic systems. Hazardous chemicals and process wastewater cannot be disposed of into septic systems. Furthermore, the septic system must be designed to accommodate the volume of wastewater generated. Any changes in waste volume and constituency from those which existed when the system was permitted must be approved by Public Health – Seattle & King County. Stormwater, whether contaminated or not, may not be disposed of in septic systems. Animal waste may not be disposed of in a septic system unless specifically designed for this purpose.

Public Health – Seattle & King County – Wastewater Program

Information regarding on-site sewage treatment systems (septic systems) is available for both property owners and septic system professionals.

(206) 296-4932

www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/wastewater.aspxRecycling

Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Facilities

Municipal solid waste disposal facilities are designed to handle solid wastes. They do not accept liquid wastes. Hazardous and dangerous wastes and many liquid wastes must be properly transported and disposed of at an appropriate offsite facility. Contact your local solid waste disposal facility or contact King County Solid Waste Division to find out how to dispose of garbage and other materials.

King County Solid Waste Division

The Solid Waste Division (SWD) provides garbage transfer, disposal and recycling services for residents and businesses in all of King County, except for Seattle and Milton. SWD also provides household hazardous waste disposal options and recycling education programs for its residents.

(206) 477-4466

www.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/index.asp

King County Business Waste Line

The Business Waste Line answers questions from small businesses on the proper disposal of oil, antifreeze, and other hazardous wastes. The Waste Line may also be used to report complaints and hazardous waste violations.

(206) 263-8899

www.govlink.org/hazwaste/

Hazardous Waste Onsite Consultation Program

The Onsite Consultation Program provides free visits to businesses that request assistance with hazardous waste handling and waste reduction. Only small quantity generators of hazardous wastes (or businesses that are potentially small quantity generators) qualify for this service.

206-263-8899

www.govlink.org/hazwaste/Seattle

Recycling

Recycling facilities are recommended for many commercial items, including used oils, used batteries, a variety of used auto parts, scrap metal, solvents, paints, and other solid wastes. There are a number of private businesses that accept materials for recycling. There is also an Industrial Material Exchange clearinghouse which facilitates the transfer of unwanted materials from the generator to another business that can use them.

King County Solid Waste Division – Workplace Recycling Program

This program assists businesses with recycling by: 1) providing information on waste reduction and recycling services for particular needs; 2) helping you work with your employees to promote participation; 3) offering information on buying recycled products; and 4) providing you with ongoing support to ensure your program is successful.

(206) 477-4466

<http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/business/index.asp>

Industrial Materials Exchange (IMEX)

IMEX provides a free service helping businesses with surplus materials to find businesses that need them. Surplus or waste materials, such as solvents, paint, plastics, and wood, are exchanged. The website lists materials available and materials wanted. IMEX is a component of the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program.

(206) 263-8465

www.lhwmp.org/home/IMEX/index.aspx

Offsite Waste Transportation and Disposal Services

Depending on the nature of the waste, it may not be possible to dispose of it in the sewer or municipal landfill. The Seattle–King County Department of Public Health’s Waste Characterization Program serves hazardous waste generators in Seattle and King County. Information supplied by the generator on questionable wastes such as sludge, sandblast waste, treated wood, and contaminated soils is reviewed by the Health Department. Permits are issued for wastes that will be allowed in the garbage. The State of Washington’s dangerous waste regulations as well as other criteria are used in the decision process.

Sumps, holding tanks or other temporary storage devices may be useful for storing relatively small volumes of liquid wastes on a temporary basis if you cannot discharge to a sanitary sewer or septic system. There are commercial services that can help you identify, quantify, transport, and dispose of any waste that you may generate. They can pump out your sump or holding tank and haul the waste to authorized disposal locations. These can be found in the yellow pages under the headings “Sewer Contractors and Cleaners” and “Tank Cleaning,” or on the King County Stormwater Services website at www.kingcounty.gov/stormwater. Holding tanks must be pumped out or drained before the tank is full. Septic system pump out and hauling contractors may only dispose of domestic sewage and cannot haul industrial wastes.

Costs of disposal vary considerably depending on the types of materials, quantities, methods of collection and transport, and whether the wastes are mixed. The rate the contractor charges will generally reflect the costs of testing and/or treating waste materials (if necessary) and the subsequent disposal. It is important to keep different types of wastes separated, so that the disposal contractors can take them to the appropriate place without causing inadvertent contamination problems elsewhere, and so that you are not paying too much for disposal of materials that are not contaminated (e.g. regular garbage). It is essential to be familiar with disposal alternatives and the different types of contractors for each disposal option so that all wastes are disposed of properly.

The disposal of wastes is the responsibility of the generator. Before agreeing to let a company handle your waste, it is recommended that you check the company’s references. All waste collected by the company should be delivered to an authorized site. Transfer of waste to a vendor does not release a generator from legal obligation for disposal to a licensed disposal facility. Generators of wastes to be hauled off site should keep copies of all transactions, including waste manifests and receipts.

Public Health – Seattle & King County – Waste Characterization

(206) 263–8528

www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/toxic/SolidWaste.aspx

Washington State Department of Ecology Dangerous Waste TSD information

The Department of Ecology is the source of information on businesses that provide dangerous waste treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) services, and information on applicable regulations for TSD businesses.

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/managewaste.html